

## **Early Graduation Scholarship Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Information regarding the Early Graduation Scholarship Grant (EGSG) program can be found online at the website for the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) [www.azhighered.gov](http://www.azhighered.gov).

### **Q: What is the EGSG Program?**

A: Arizona's Early Graduation Scholarship Grant (EGSG) program, established September 19, 2007, is a college access grant designed to encourage high school students to graduate early and promptly attend a regionally or nationally accredited Arizona postsecondary institution or vocational program.

### **Q: What are the minimum eligibility requirements?**

A:

- Students must residents of Arizona for at least the previous 12 months (at the time of application).
- Students must graduate from an Arizona public high school or charter school (after September 19, 2007) at least one semester earlier than their cohort class is scheduled to graduate.
- Students must achieve passing scores on all required components of the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). Students who have taken measurement standards exams in other states (often called reciprocity) are not eligible. Arizona graduates who have passed AIMS with augmentation are not eligible for EGSG.
- Students must enroll at least half-time in a regionally or nationally accredited Arizona postsecondary institution or vocational program (at least eight months in length).

### **Q: What is the value of the grant?**

A: Funds are disbursed as follows (assuming full time enrollment):

#### **One Semester Early**

Term 1 = \$500.00  
Term 2 = \$500.00  
Term 3 = \$250.00  
Term 4 = \$250.00

#### **One Year Early**

Term 1 = \$625.00  
Term 2 = \$625.00  
Term 3 = \$350.00  
Term 4 = \$350.00

*Students who enroll in half-time or three-quarter time will have their awards prorated accordingly.*

### **Q: Is the grant renewable?**

A: The Early Graduation Scholarship Grant is renewable for one additional academic year, provided students meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements set by their institution and successfully complete each period of enrollment. Students will need to reapply each academic year.

### **Q: What schools can I attend?**

A: Please visit <http://www.azhighered.org/Content/EGSG%20Eligible%20Institutions.pdf> for a complete listing of institutions where students can use their EGSG funds. If you do not see your institution on the list please contact the ACPE staff and we would be happy to research your question (602) 258-2435.

### **Q: How do I apply for the EGSG program?**

A: Students must apply online at [www.azgrants.gov](http://www.azgrants.gov). A paper application is available upon request for those not able to access the web. Please contact the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education to request a paper application.

### **Q: When can I apply for EGSG program?**

A: Students may start an application for the EGSG program in their final semester/year once they have confirmed they will graduate early.

### **Q: What is the SAIS ID?**

A: The SAIS ID is unique identification number for every student who attends public school in the State of Arizona. The state generates and assigns these unique identification numbers, which are referred to as SAIS IDs. Once assigned, the SAIS ID identifies a particular student throughout their entire preschool through 12th grade educational career in Arizona. Most often you can find the SAIS ID on your high school transcripts. If you cannot locate it, please contact your high school for assistance.

**Q: What document(s) can I submit to prove I graduated early and passed AIMS?**

A: The preferred document is high school transcripts. High school transcripts will often have the graduation information required in addition to the AIMS scores. Should high school transcripts not have AIMS information on them; students can submit a copy of their AIMS scores from the Arizona Department of Education.

**Q: I've applied, now what?**

A: Once the ACPE has received all requested application material and all verification has been completed, the financial aid/scholarship office at the postsecondary institution will need to certify institutional eligibility (enrollment, satisfactory academic progress, etc, cost of attendance, etc.). Institutions will go in and certify each term, after the posted drop/add date.

The Arizona Department of Education transfers the EGSG funds to the ACPE for all eligible students. Once the ACPE has received all the required information, the applications are verified by the ACPE staff for initial eligibility and then applicant names are sent to the Arizona Department of Education to confirm receipt of grant funds. Should there be any conflict of data, the ACPE cannot award or disburse grant funds until the conflict has been resolved.

**Q: How long does it take to receive my funds? How will funds be disbursed?**

A: Once the school has certified the record then they can request payment. Funds are generally received within a week after requesting payment. Students select on their application to have funds sent to them or their school. Should a student wish to have their funds sent directly to them, they will be responsible for submitting the funds to their school for processing.

**Q: How do I log onto the AZ Grants System?**

A: Please log onto the AZ Grants System at [www.azgrants.gov](http://www.azgrants.gov). To create a student login and password click the "create login" link. Your user name must be at least five alpha-numeric characters. Passwords must be at least eight characters long and must contain a combination of letters, numbers and special characters. Please note that your user name and password are case sensitive. Once you have created a user name and password an activation link will be sent to your email address. You must activate your account before you can log in and complete an application.

**Q: Why do you have to verify eligibility with the Arizona Department of Education?**

A: The Arizona Department of Education transfers the EGSG funds to the ACPE for all eligible students. Once the ACPE has received all the required information, the applications are verified by the ACPE staff for initial eligibility and then applicant names are sent to the Arizona Department of Education to confirm receipt of grant funds. Should there be any conflict of data, the ACPE cannot award or disburse grant funds until the conflict has been resolved.

**Q: What is an academic year?**

A: Per federal regulations, an academic year must contain at least 30 weeks of instructional time in which a full-time student is expected to complete at least 24 semester or trimester hours, 36 quarter hours or 900 clock hours. Please check with your institution for further information.

**Q: Can I take time off from school?**

A: Students must be able to complete one academic year of instruction or obtain a certificate of completion within one calendar year. Students have 36 months from the date of graduation to fully utilize their EGSG funds. Should a student need to take time away from school, they are encouraged to contact the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education to discuss their options.

**Q: Why is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) required?**

A: Students applying for any state financial assistance are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Q: What happens if I transfer institutions during the same academic year?**

A: Please send an email to the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) with your new institution information and we will be happy to update your file.

**Q: What is a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution?**

A: The institution must have accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible to participate in the administration of student financial aid programs. Accreditation means that the institution meets certain minimum academic standards as defined by the accrediting body. Most institutions will list in their publications, websites or other documentation with what accrediting body the institution is accredited. Please contact the ACPE staff with any questions (602) 258-2435.